

Waterford Methodist Church  
Main and High Streets  
Waterford  
Loudoun County  
Virginia

HABS No. VA-935

HABS  
VA,  
54-WATFO,  
40-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

WATERFORD METHODIST CHURCH

HABS No. VA-935

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VA  
54-WAIFO,  
40-

Location: Main and High Streets, Waterford, Loudoun County, Va.

Present Occupant: Vacant

Present Owner: Waterford Foundation

Date of Easement: September 3, 1975

Statement of  
Significance:

The Waterford Methodist Church, although constructed in 1877, displays unusual simplicity of design. The unembellished clapboard and gable roof are compatible with Waterford's design schema. The church is situated on a rolling, hilly site and is surrounded by trees and shrubs.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: The Methodist Church was erected in 1877.
2. Architect: None known.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The Methodist Church is located on one of Mahlon Janney's lots in his new addition to Waterford. The land was conveyed by Joel Haines to John Hough, Charles W. Schooley, Joseph James, Aaron Beans, and Joseph T. Divine, trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church, on November 3, 1877.
4. Historical Events and Personages: By 1840, a strong Methodist congregation existed in Waterford. Many of the early Methodists were Quakers, probably expelled from the Society of Friends for either marrying outside the faith or serving in the militia. At one time the Waterford Methodists used a building which stood on the site of present Presbyterian Church.

The Methodist Episcopal Church was divided about the slavery issue. Some Waterford Methodists became members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. In 1850, however, this was still within the Baltimore Conference. Other Waterford Methodists remained loyal to the Methodist Episcopal Church. Later, the Virginia and North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church was organized at Portsmouth in 1867. This Virginia Conference served Waterford; the circuit was called Loudoun Circuit and had its headquarters in Waterford.

In the early 1870's, the Waterford Methodists used a two-story frame building located on the north side of Main Street near the top of Big Hill. Construction for the present structure began in 1877 and was completed in 1879. The Methodist Church was active until its closing in 1966.

B. Sources of Information:

1. Primary and Original Sources: An interview with Mr. John Divine, Waterford resident and local historian, was recorded by Mr. John Lewis of the Virginia Landmarks Commission.

2. Secondary Sources:

Steadman, Marvin Lee, Jr. "Methodist." Waterford Foundation Bulletin. Waterford Foundation, 1967.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The Waterford Methodist Church is a one and one-half story, three bays wide by three bays deep, white clapboard structure. It is spartan in appearance and has no ornamentation except a white wood hexagonal wheel above the main entry.
2. Condition of fabric: Excellent.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Foundations: Brick.
2. Wall construction: The exterior walls are white clapboard.
3. Chimneys: One outside end brick chimney is situated on the east wall of the church.
4. Porches, Stoops, Terraces: Three concrete steps are located at the entrance.
5. Openings:
  - a. Doors and doorways: The only entry to the church is placed at the central bay of the south wall. The entrance consists of a pair of double doors; each has two enriched panels and is made of wood. A rectangular two light transom is placed above the doors. Plain

trim surrounds the door.

- b. Windows and shutters: The Waterford Methodist Church has double hung sash windows with six over six lights. Three windows are located on both the east and west walls. The south facade has four windows (one over one) at the outer bays. The north facade has a three light bay window. Plain wood trim surrounds the windows.
- 6. Roof: The roof covered with black asphalt shingles, is a single gable. Flat, plain trim also painted white, defines the cornice and area beneath the eaves.

### PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This data was donated to the Historic American Buildings Survey by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The National Trust has an easement on the Waterford Methodist Church.